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Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In its resolution 67/219 of 21 December 2012, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of that resolution. The present report, prepared in response to that request, provides a summary of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held in New York on 3 and 4 October 2013, including its preparatory events and deliberations; and outlines the main initiatives of the Global Migration Group to implement the eight-point agenda for action, as proposed by the Secretary-General in his report prepared for that High-level Dialogue. The present report concludes with recommendations for follow-up to the High-level Dialogue.

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Introduction

1. The 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development was a landmark event. Through its adoption, on 3 October 2013, of the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (General Assembly resolution 68/4), the Assembly broke new ground in its consideration of the issue of international migration and development. The High-level Dialogue also reflected a significant convergence of views among Member States, the United Nations system, other relevant international organizations and civil society. The Secretary-General's eight-point agenda for action (A/68/190, sect. V), which expresses the common vision of the United Nations system and the International Organization for Migration, is aligned with the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue and the priorities set out by civil society.

2. As the General Assembly considers the inclusion of migration in the elaboration of the sustainable development goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda, the world is faced with unprecedented challenges. Every day, the perils of migration are evident, including the loss of life of migrants, whether at the point of destination, en route or in countries of departure.

3. Protecting the fundamental human rights of migrants, ensuring that migration is undertaken by choice and making migration "work" for development can be achieved only through cooperation, partnerships and the sharing of responsibility. Through working together, the vision of the 2013 High-level Dialogue can be realized.

I. International migration: global in reach, regional in character

4. Globally, there were 232 million international migrants in 2013 (table 1), with the largest numbers residing in Europe (72 million) and Asia (71 million).

5. While international migration between continents receives significant attention, most international migrants move over smaller distances. Whereas Northern America and Oceania draw most of their international migrants from other regions, the majority of migrants in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean reside in the region in which they were born.

Table 1
Global migrant stock by region of origin and destination, 2013

	Origin							
Destination	*Africa*	*Asia*	*Europe*	*Latin America and the Caribbean*	*Northern America*	*Oceania*	*Total*	*Intraregional*
	millions							*percentage*
Africa	15.3	1.1	0.8	0.0	0.1	0.0	18.6	82
Asia	4.6	53.8	7.6	0.7	0.6	0.1	70.8	76
Europe	8.9	18.6	37.8	4.5	0.9	0.3	72.4	52
Latin America and the Caribbean	0.0	0.3	1.2	5.4	1.3	0.0	8.5	64
Northern America	2.0	15.7	7.9	25.9	1.2	0.3	53.1	2
Oceania	0.5	2.9	3.1	0.1	0.2	1.1	7.9	14
Total	**31.3**	**92.5**	**58.4**	**36.7**	**4.3**	**1.9**	**231.5**	
Intraregional (percentage)	49	58	65	15	28	58		

Note: Regional totals by origin do not add to the total, because information on the country of origin of 6.4 million international migrants was not available.

6. While the proportion of international migrants in the world's population has remained relatively constant for the past two decades, at about 3 per cent, the number of international migrants continued to grow, by 10.8 million between 2010 and 2013. The largest gains were in Asia and Europe, with an increase of over 3 million in each region over that period.

7. Regional changes in the migrant stocks since 2010 mirror the composition of global migrant stocks described above. In Asia, 76 per cent of the increase in the migrant stock resulted from flows within that region. Migrant workers originating from South Asia and South-East Asia who were employed in the oil-producing countries of Western Asia were responsible for much of that growth. Further, persons displaced by the conflicts in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic contributed significantly to the increase in the number of international migrants in Western Asia during the period 2010-2013.

8. In Europe, most of the increase in the number of international migrants during 2010-2013 resulted from the movement of migrants from Eastern Europe to Southern and Northern Europe and that of migrants from Southern Europe to Western Europe, partly in response to the economic crisis. In Africa, about half of the increase in the migrant stock during 2010-2013 was the result of the movement of migrants from Northern Africa to Eastern Africa, as well as that of migrants born in Western Africa to other countries of that region. In both corridors, refugees contributed significantly to the increase in the migrant stock.

9. Between 2010 and 2013, the international migrant stock in Northern America grew primarily as a result of migration from Central America, from East and South-East Asia and from the Caribbean. In South America, much of the increase in the number of international migrants was fuelled by migrants born in other countries of South America. In Oceania, the increase in migrant stock between 2010 and 2013

was driven primarily by migration from Northern Europe and from East and South-East Asia.

II. The 2013 High-level Dialogue and its preparations

10. As part of the follow-up to the first High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held in September 2006, the General Assembly, in its resolution 63/225 of 19 December 2008, decided to convene a second High-level Dialogue during its sixty-eighth session in 2013. In its resolution 67/219 of 21 December 2012, the Assembly requested the President of the Assembly to organize, as part of the preparations for the High-level Dialogue, a panel discussion on the overall theme and informal interactive hearings with non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector.

A. Panel discussion (New York, 25 June 2013)[1]

11. The panel discussion provided an opportunity for Member States to be briefed on the latest evidence regarding the linkages between migration and development and on the means of addressing key migration challenges, including the protection of the human rights of migrants. Delegates also exchanged views with representatives of the United Nations, the International Organization for Migration and civil society.

12. Panellists observed that the discourse on international migration and development had moved significantly beyond the narrow realm of economic impacts to also include social, cultural and environmental aspects. The contribution of migration and migrants to societies of origin and destination was receiving greater recognition than ever before. Experts observed that migration, while not providing a solution for development, should be more fully integrated into national development strategies. In order to ensure that migration was voluntary, Governments should prioritize poverty reduction and good governance. Panellists asserted that in a globalized world, where barriers to the free movement of goods, services and capital are disappearing, labour also needs to move more freely.

13. Panellists encouraged countries to leverage the benefits of migration for development by recognizing the skills acquired by their citizens while abroad and to capitalize on the potential contributions of diaspora groups. By granting dual citizenship and promoting the transnational portability of acquired benefits, countries could enable migrants to participate more easily in circular and return migration. Panellists argued that migration had a positive, albeit modest, effect on employment and wages as well as a neutral fiscal impact overall in countries of destination. In addition to filling needed gaps in the labour market at all skill levels, due in part to population ageing, migrants played an important role as entrepreneurs and job creators. Host countries were urged to acknowledge the positive contributions made by migrants and to step up efforts to protect the human rights of vulnerable groups, particularly migrant women and children.

14. Panellists drew attention to the progress made in fostering dialogue and cooperation on migration. The Global Forum on Migration and Development, in

[1] See http://www.un.org/esa/population/meetings/HLD2013/panel2013.html.

particular, had provided a useful platform for exchanging ideas and good practices. Participants affirmed the role of the United Nations in improving the governance of global migration and voiced support for integrating migration into the post-2015 development agenda.

B. Informal interactive hearings with civil society (New York, 15 July 2013)[2]

15. The informal interactive hearings offered an opportunity for civil society to express its views and voice its expectations for the 2013 High-level Dialogue and to interact with Member States. Over 300 representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, worker organizations, other civil society organizations and private sector representatives participated in the hearings. Delegates from over 100 Member States and international organizations were also present. Since the first High-level Dialogue in 2006, Member States and civil society had engaged in constructive debates, which had fostered trust and understanding. Having built on this progress, civil society presented an eight-point five-year agenda focusing on tangible action and called for the adoption of an accountability framework to be followed up through appropriate intergovernmental processes.[3]

16. Participants emphasized the need for a comprehensive rights-based and gender- and age-sensitive migrant-centred approach to international migration and development. For the full benefits of migration to be realized, the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, must be respected. In designing migration policies, Governments should ensure that the vulnerabilities of migrants, in particular children, adolescents, youth, women and persons with disabilities, are taken into account. A rights-based approach to migration entails equal access for all migrants to education, health care, housing, social protection and justice, as well as equal pay and the right to join trade unions. Civil society offered to engage with Member States in developing a framework for addressing the plight of migrants and their families stranded in dire humanitarian situations, based on the principles of non-discrimination and equality of treatment, non-refoulement and family unity.

17. Noting the importance of addressing deficiencies in the regulatory framework for labour recruitment in respect of reducing the economic and human costs of migration, participants called for implementing existing recruitment standards, licensing, monitoring and, where necessary, sanctioning recruitment agencies and requiring employers to pay for the recruitment of workers in accordance with international labour standards. Participants also urged Governments to create more opportunities for decent work in countries of origin to ensure that migration is undertaken from choice rather than necessity. Considering that migrant and diaspora communities send home remittances, transfer knowledge, foster innovation and create businesses, they should be embraced as partners in development. There was a broad consensus that the issue of migration should be firmly anchored within the United Nations through the inclusion of migrants and migration in the post-2015 development agenda.

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[2] See http://www.un.org/esa/population/meetings/HLD2013/hld2013.html.

[3] See http://hldcivilsociety.org/five-year-action-agenda/.

C. The High-level Dialogue (New York, 3 and 4 October 2013)[4]

18. More than 100 Member States took the floor during the plenary sessions of the 2013 High-level Dialogue, which sought to identify concrete measures for strengthening coherence and cooperation at all levels, enhancing the benefits of international migration and its important links to development and reducing its negative impact. Opening statements were made by the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General, followed by Sweden as Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, an eminent person in the field of international migration and development, and a representative of migrants. Further, three civil society representatives were included in the list of speakers. Summaries of the four round tables, which included multi-stakeholder panels with representatives of Member States, international organizations and civil society, were presented to the plenary at the end of the second day of the High-level Dialogue.

1. Summary of the plenary debate[5]

19. Member States highlighted the importance of protecting the human rights of migrants, especially women, children and other vulnerable groups, during every step of the migration process. Indeed, the benefits of migration could be fully realized only when migrants were protected from discrimination, abuse and exploitation. Member States reaffirmed that the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants and their families should be effectively promoted regardless of their migratory status. In implementing migration policies, countries of origin, transit and destination should avoid approaches that exacerbate the vulnerability of migrants. Member States were also urged to ensure migrants' access to fair working conditions. Labour migrants should be viewed not as mere "production factors" or as "commodities", but rather as human beings with inalienable human rights. In their statements, Member States highlighted the importance of international norms and standards relevant to migration and migrants, and called for the ratification of relevant international legal instruments.

20. Member States also highlighted the centrality of developing partnerships and strengthening cooperation on migration at all levels, bilateral, regional and multilateral, particularly between the countries of origin, transit and destination of migrants. Bilateral and multilateral agreements are crucial for regulating such issues as skills development, skills certification and recognition, the portability of social security and other acquired rights, decent working conditions, and regularization of migration flows. Many countries acknowledged the partnerships with international organizations and welcomed the various initiatives taken by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development. Speakers also highlighted the role of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in promoting informal dialogue and cooperation on migration. Several delegates suggested that the Global Forum should strengthen its focus on development, the participation of developing countries and the inclusion of regional perspectives.

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[4] See http://www.un.org/esa/population/meetings/HLD2013/mainhld2013.html.

[5] This summary reflects the Secretary-General's eight-point agenda for action.

21. Speakers underlined the role of regional integration mechanisms in facilitating labour mobility, promoting the human rights of migrants and addressing irregular migration. In many parts of the world, regional consultative processes have successfully promoted informal dialogue and cooperation on migration and mobility. Several speakers called for a comprehensive international instrument on international migration, while some delegates cautioned against the creation of parallel or duplicate structures on migration.

22. Member States hailed the recent advances made at the United Nations in promoting global cooperation on migration. The adoption by consensus of a political declaration on international migration and development at the 2013 High-level Dialogue was recognized as a milestone in the consideration of migration by the world body.

23. Member States underscored the need to eliminate migrant exploitation, including human trafficking. Countries highlighted the critical role of bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation in combating the heinous crime of human trafficking. They called for prosecuting cross-border criminal networks and employers hiring undocumented migrants, and for protecting victims of human trafficking, in particular women and girls subject to sexual or commercial exploitation. Delegates emphasized that enhancing legal channels for migration could reduce the demand for migrant smuggling and counter abusive practices of employers.

24. Many statements highlighted the need to integrate migration into national development strategies as well as the post-2015 development agenda. Several Member States recalled the objectives and actions on international migration contained in chapter X of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.[6] Speakers proposed the establishment of clear targets and indicators on migration as part of the future sustainable development goals and recognition of the untapped potential of diaspora communities to promote development in countries of origin.

25. Member States that took the floor stressed the need to strengthen the migration evidence base by improving data collection and analysis, including on the impact of migration on development, and to use the information in policy formulation. Speakers called for building, with the assistance of the international community, national capacities to collect and use migration data.

26. Speakers called for a reduction in the costs of labour migration, with many delegates focusing on the need to reduce the costs of transferring remittances by promoting competition and facilitating transparency in the marketplace. While underlining the private nature of remittance flows, some speakers called for enhancing their productive use. Member States highlighted the need to reduce the costs of labour recruitment, especially for low-skilled migrants, and to implement ethical recruitment practices for health workers and teachers in countries facing acute workforce shortages. The need to improve the matching of labour demand and supply and skills was also highlighted.

27. Several Member States emphasized the need to improve public perceptions of migrants by addressing negative perceptions of migrants and migration in host

[6] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18, chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

societies. Some speakers welcomed the use of sound evidence in countering stereotypes and misperceptions, while others stressed the role of the media, civil society actors and other stakeholders in contributing to informed public debate.

28. Some Member States advocated for improving the international response to migrants who are "stranded" in countries of destination or transit as a result of dire humanitarian situations linked to conflict or natural disaster. Participants welcomed the initiative on stranded migrants, initiated by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development, as well as the Nansen Initiative, which seeks to strengthen the protection of victims of environmental disasters and crises.

2. Summary of the round tables

29. The first round table reviewed the effects of international migration on sustainable development. Speakers presented national experiences in implementing programmes on migration and development, focusing on issues such as youth and employment, workforce development, mutual recognition of qualifications, involvement of diaspora communities in development cooperation, and entrepreneurship among returning migrants. While the contribution of migration to development was widely acknowledged, speakers cautioned that Governments, not migrants, were ultimately responsible for reducing poverty, promoting economic growth and creating decent work.

30. Nearly all interventions acknowledged the need to reflect the contribution of migration and mobility to global development in the post-2015 development agenda. Migration could be incorporated into the future development framework as part of a new goal on global partnership for development. Other countries called for including migration-related targets under other development goals. Concrete migration targets were also proposed, including reducing the costs of recruitment and of remittance transfers, promoting the recognition of foreign qualifications and acquired skills, and combating human trafficking.

31. The second round table identified measures to ensure respect for, and protection of, the human rights of all migrants. Speakers stressed the obligation of Member States to promote, respect and protect the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their migratory status, in designing migration policies. Participants observed that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance increased the vulnerability of migrants. While women migrants contribute significantly to the economic and social development of countries of origin and destination, they also face risks of exploitation and abuse during and after their move. Delegates called for the adoption of migration policies, based on the principle of non-discrimination, ensuring migrant women's equal access to wages and health services, and protecting migrant women from domestic violence and other abuse.

32. The second round table also drew attention to the plight of children, adolescents and youth in the context of migration, especially unaccompanied and separated minors, irregular migrant children, and those who remain in countries of origin. In line with obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[7] speakers highlighted the importance of providing all children with equal access to health care, education, housing, protection, justice and birth registration, regardless

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

of their migration status, and called for an end to detaining migrant children. Participants noted that the best interests of the child should be a primary consideration in all policies and decisions affecting migrant children, including on allowing children to reside with their parents.

33. Speakers called attention to the challenges of irregular migration, especially in relation to human trafficking and migrant smuggling, highlighting the roles of Governments and civil society in combating trafficking in persons and in aiding victims of trafficking. Speakers cautioned against criminalizing victims of human trafficking and recommended that special attention be given to vulnerable migrants, including asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons. Migration policies should ensure safe, orderly and humane pathways of mobility. Yet, addressing the needs and rights of migrants while giving due consideration to the legitimate interests of Member States remains a challenge in many countries.

34. The third round table discussed partnerships and cooperation on international migration, reviewed mechanisms for integrating migration into development policies and highlighted the need for coherence at all levels. Participants observed that, since the 2006 High-level Dialogue, the number of countries pursuing partnerships and cooperation on migration had risen significantly. Several countries had made progress in coordinating the work of the various government entities dealing with migration. Speakers acknowledged the role of regional integration processes and cooperation mechanisms, the Global Forum process and the Global Migration Group in promoting cooperation. Several delegations called upon the United Nations system to strengthen cooperation with the International Organization for Migration. Civil society and migrants were considered key partners and should be included in policy formulation, while employer and worker organizations were critical partners in developing labour mobility programmes.

35. Participants stressed that migration partnerships and cooperation should focus on areas where significant consensus already exists, including lowering the transfer costs of remittances and recruitment fees, facilitating diaspora engagement and improving the evidence base. Speakers noted that, in order to advance the global migration debate and leverage migration for development, follow-up is needed both within and outside the United Nations.

36. The fourth round table discussed labour mobility and its impact on development. Participants agreed that bilateral and regional mobility schemes could play a key role in making migration safe, orderly and regular by ensuring legal access, addressing mismatches between labour market supply and demand, informing prospective migrants about labour-market opportunities and the process of migration, and curbing the demand for human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

37. Labour mobility schemes were also instrumental in protecting the rights of migrant workers, particularly those in vulnerable categories, such as lower-skilled workers, workers who are admitted under temporary migration programmes, migrant domestic workers, and migrant women and youth. Several participants called for concerted efforts to ensure equality of treatment with respect to conditions of work, including wages, and housing. Enforcing the obligation of employers to pay migration costs, eliminating unscrupulous intermediaries, increasing market competition, and certifying recruitment agencies were some of the concrete measures proposed to lower the costs of migration for migrants. Matching between available jobs and migrant skills and facilitating the recognition of foreign

qualifications and diplomas could reduce "brain waste" and enhance positive migration outcomes.

38. Participants called for greater cooperation and coherence among the various government agencies and ministries working on migration at the national level, including immigration and labour ministries, as well as ministries responsible for development, education and social services.

III. Implementing the eight-point agenda: assessing progress, identifying gaps

39. The present section reviews progress made in implementing the Secretary-General's eight-point agenda for action, as presented in his report to the 2013 High-level Dialogue.

A. Protect the human rights of all migrants

40. Since 2013, an additional 11 Member States have ratified International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 189 concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers (2011), bringing to 14 the total number of its States parties. As of July 2014, a total of 47 States parties had ratified the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[8] while 55 Member States have ratified ILO Convention No. 97 concerning Migration for Employment (Revised 1949), the ILO Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (Convention No. 143), or both. In total, 87 countries have ratified at least one of these four migration-related instruments.

41. Since the issuance of report A/68/190, particular attention has been given to reducing the vulnerability of migrant women and children. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) issued guidelines for determining durable solutions which are in the best interest of unaccompanied migrant children. UNICEF, with the support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), coordinated the joint Global Migration Group report entitled "Migration and youth: challenges and opportunities", with contributions from Global Migration Group entities and other stakeholders. At the twenty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council, held in June 2014, several Member States signed a pledge to end the detention of migrant children.

42. ILO, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) have launched a global programme to promote the human and labour rights of migrant domestic workers and their families. OHCHR, in collaboration with ILO, has assisted the national authorities in Lebanon in developing a code of conduct which provides guidance to recruiting agencies on promoting and protecting the rights of migrant domestic workers in that country. OHCHR and UN-Women launched programmes in Mexico, the Philippines and the Republic of Moldova designed to strengthen female migrant worker organizations.

[8] Ibid., vol. 2220, No. 39481.

43. UNHCR has launched a Global Initiative on Protection at Sea to raise awareness about the risks for refugees when participating in mixed migratory movements. In December 2014, UNHCR will organize a dialogue on protection at sea with a view to addressing the loss of life of people fleeing conflict and persecution and to promoting regional cooperation in the sharing of burdens and responsibilities. OHCHR has provided guidance to Member States on establishing a human rights-based approach to border control measures, including for the reception, screening, assistance, detention and return of international migrants.

44. In spite of these efforts, significant challenges persist. There have been only a few new ratifications of most international instruments concerned with international migrants and migration. Further, the use of administrative detention has continued to rise, with thousands of migrants, including children, detained each year; often, they are housed in inadequate facilities and are without recourse to legal counsel. In many parts of the world, migrant children and children born to migrant parents continue to be denied equal access to education or essential health services and are frequently separated from their parents, in particular those in an irregular situation.

B. Reduce the costs of labour migration

45. The report of the Secretary-General prepared for the 2013 High-level Dialogue identified four types of interventions that could reduce the costs related to migration, namely (a) lowering the transfer costs of remittances, (b) reducing the fees paid to recruiters, (c) enhancing the portability of social security and other acquired rights and (d) promoting the mutual recognition of diplomas, qualifications and skills. Since October 2013, various initiatives have been undertaken to reduce the costs targeted by these interventions and other migration costs.

46. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the European Commission, in collaboration with the World Bank and the Universal Postal Union (UPU), have launched the African postal financial services initiative, which aims to increase competition in some of the most expensive remittance corridors. Further, the African Union, in partnership with the European Commission, the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the International Organization for Migration, has inaugurated the African Institute for Remittances, which seeks to reduce the costs of transmitting remittances, develop financial products for remittance beneficiaries and strengthen financial literacy programmes. Through websites and financial literacy courses, the International Organization for Migration provides information to migrants and their families on remittance prices and the productive use of remittances. Such initiatives have already produced some results. Between 2009 and 2013, the reduction in the costs of transferring remittances resulted in an estimated savings to migrants and their families of over US$ 40 billion.[9]

47. Several new initiatives are under way to reduce excessive recruitment costs. ILO and the World Bank, with the support of the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD), have conducted four pilot surveys to assess recruitment and other migration-related costs. ILO, in collaboration with several

[9] World Bank, "Savings of $44 billion: impacts of the global target of a reduction of remittances cost through effective interventions at the global, country and municipality levels" (4 April 2014). Available from http://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2014/04/04/savings-of-44-billion.

members of the Global Migration Group, has launched a "fair recruitment" initiative aimed at collecting information on international recruitment practices and assisting countries in bringing laws, policies and enforcement mechanisms in line with international labour standards. The International Organization for Migration and the International Organization of Employers, a private sector network of 150 business and employer federations in 143 countries, have created a public-private alliance for fair and ethical recruitment and treatment of foreign labour. Within this alliance, a voluntary ethical recruitment framework, referred to as the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS), is being developed with the aim of reducing recruitment costs for migrant workers.

48. The World Health Organization (WHO) promotes the inclusion of health-care benefits in social protection agreements between countries of origin and destination. These agreements also encompass the portability of social security and other acquired rights for returning migrants. UNESCO continues to advocate for the mutual recognition of qualifications and professional standards within the framework of the six regional conventions on the recognition of qualifications. UNHCR promotes access for refugees to migrant worker schemes.

49. Although some progress has been made in each of these areas, much remains to be done. For instance, in the fourth quarter of 2013, the average cost of transmitting remittances was found to be above 5 per cent in 173 corridors, whereas remittance costs were below 5 per cent in only 47 corridors.[10] Some of the most expensive remittance corridors were found in the poorest countries. According to a recent report by the Overseas Development Institute, Africa would gain an estimated $1.8 billion per year if the costs of transferring remittances were at levels recommended by the Group of Eight (G8).[11] Such savings could pay for the yearly primary school education of an estimated 14 million children in the region, cutting in half the number of primary school age children in sub-Saharan Africa who are not enrolled in school.[12]

50. Recruitment costs for migrant workers also remain high, with months, if not years, of wages lost to cover the costs of documents, transportation and recruitment service fees. Lack of progress in recognizing educational and professional qualifications across countries and regions continues to contribute to deskilling or brain waste. At the same time, employers in many parts of the world are facing shortages of qualified local workers. In sum, the excessive costs of international migration, combined with the waste of human capital resulting from qualification and labour mismatches, continue to stymie the positive development impacts of migration.

C. Eliminate migrant exploitation, including human trafficking

51. In the period since the issuance of document A/68/190, responses to human trafficking and migrant smuggling have intensified. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has assisted countries in all regions in their efforts to counter trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, including through

[10] Ibid.

[11] Kevin Watkins and Maria Quattri, "Lost in intermediation: how excessive charges undermine the benefits of remittances for Africa", *ODI Report* (London, Overseas Development Institute, April 2014).

[12] Ibid.

legislative assistance and capacity-building. Furthermore, UNODC has developed a reporting mechanism on migrant smuggling and related conduct in South-East Asia. Several private companies have taken steps to eliminate forced labour from their global supply chains. In another encouraging development, the General Conference of ILO adopted the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930, to address gaps relating to the prevention of forced labour by protecting migrant workers from fraudulent recruitment processes and providing effective remedies to victims.

52. Several entities have undertaken specific initiatives to address the trafficking of women and children. ILO, with support from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, for instance, has launched a five-year cooperation programme aimed at preventing the trafficking of women and girls in Bangladesh, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Nepal, the United Arab Emirates and other countries in Asia. The International Organization for Migration, in collaboration with UNICEF and other international organizations, has trained representatives from ministries and civil society in the Caribbean, Eastern Africa and South America on human trafficking, gender-based violence and child protection.

53. The inter-agency coordination group against trafficking in persons continues to promote a comprehensive approach to the issue, including by supporting victims of trafficking. Further, UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration are collaborating in various task forces on promoting a human rights-based approach to people participating in mixed migratory flows in Northern and north-eastern Africa.

54. While ratification of the 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,[13] and the 2000 Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air[14] is robust, with 159 and 138 States parties thereto, respectively, as of June 2014, the effective implementation of the two instruments at the national level remains a challenge. Furthermore, opportunities for safe and regular migration do not reflect the reality of today's migration. The costs of this inaction are intolerably high, with thousands of migrants each year perishing at sea or while crossing international borders.

D. Address the plight of stranded migrants

55. The plight of stranded migrants, a cause championed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development, has received increasing attention. Over the past few years, acute crises have highlighted the need for a framework for delineating the responsibilities of Member States and non-State actors towards migrants caught in crisis situations. To address this gap, Australia, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, the Philippines and the United States of America, along with the European Commission, with support from UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration, are leading an effort to protect the dignity and rights of migrants caught in countries experiencing acute crises. The aim of this initiative is to develop a set of voluntary guidelines for all stakeholders with regard to emergency preparedness, institutional capacities, humanitarian assistance, protection responses and post-crisis support.

[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

[14] Ibid., vol. 2241, No. 39574.

56. A second important initiative to address gaps in the current protection regime for international migrants is the Nansen Initiative. Norway and Switzerland, with the support of UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration, initiated this consultative process aimed at addressing cross-border displacement as a result of natural disasters and climate change.

57. The newly formed Solutions Alliance, a partnership of humanitarian and development actors, aims to find solutions to protracted situations of displacement by promoting the resilience, self-reliance and development of refugees and displaced persons. Through the work of Member States, civil society and the private sector, the initiative promotes the notion that displacement is not only a humanitarian concern and a protection issue, but also a development challenge, which should be duly reflected in the post-2015 development agenda.

E. Improve public perceptions of migrants

58. Since October 2013, efforts have been undertaken to create greater public awareness of the contributions that migrants make to countries of origin and destination, and to combat discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance towards migrants and their families. OHCHR and ILO have developed a series of cartoons as part of a campaign to challenge commonly held stereotypes about migrants. OHCHR has also prepared a publication and audiovisual material on the human rights of migrant domestic workers in an irregular situation. The International Organization for Migration has launched an information campaign, entitled "It's amazing what migrants bring", to highlight migrants' contributions to societies of origin and destination.

59. Initiatives have sought to embrace a wide array of stakeholders, including the private sector, trade unions, the media, educational institutions, local governments and migrants. In late 2013, UNICEF, in collaboration with several partners, launched an online consultation on youth migration, inequalities and the post-2015 development agenda to lend a voice to young people, migrants and academics in formulating recommendations on how to make migration a positive experience. Efforts are also under way towards working with municipal and regional governments to change public attitudes regarding migrants and migration. In this regard, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations University (UNU), the Joint Migration and Development Initiative and the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development, supported the city of Barcelona in hosting the first mayoral forum on mobility, migration and development in June 2014. A second mayoral forum is expected to be held in Quito in 2015.

60. Nevertheless, negative stereotypes still persist with regard to both migrants and migration. Recent surveys in Europe and Northern America suggest that a large share of respondents view international migration as a challenge. Misperceptions about migrants' contributions to the economy and public finances and their use of social protection systems, as well as their impacts on labour markets and wage levels, continue to contribute to negative attitudes among host populations towards migrants and labour mobility.

F. Integrate migration into the development agenda

61. Based on the growing body of evidence attesting to the multiple contributions of migration, mobility and migrants to sustainable development, the international community has begun to advocate for including migration-related goals and targets in the post-2015 development agenda. In recent discussions among Member States and other stakeholders, several priority areas have been identified for maximizing the development benefits of migration while minimizing its human, social and financial costs (see table 2).

Table 2
Indicative list of migration-related target areas

Target area	*Global Experts Meeting on Migration*[a]	*GFMD 2014*[b]	*OWG*[c]
Promote international cooperation and partnerships	x	x	
Facilitate safe, orderly, regular migration	x	x	x
Enhance labour mobility	x	x	x
Reduce remittance transfer costs	x	x	x
Lower recruitment costs	x	x	
Improve the portability of acquired rights	x	x	
Recognize skills and diplomas acquired abroad	x	x	
End discrimination and combat xenophobia	x	x	
Combat human trafficking	x	x	x
Find solutions for refugees and displaced persons		x	
Safeguard the rights of migrant workers	x	x	x
Protect the human rights of migrants	x	x	
Mitigate the effects of the brain drain	x		x
Strengthen the migration evidence base	x	x	
Include migrants in vulnerable groups	x	x	
Promote legal identity and birth registration			x

[a] Organized by the Governments of Bangladesh and Switzerland (Dhaka, 28 and 29 April 2014).
[b] Seventh meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, organized by the Government of Sweden (Stockholm, 14-16 May 2014).
[c] Outcome document: Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (draft, 30 June 2014).

62. Various complementary actions exist for including migration in the post-2015 development agenda. First, as an "enabler" for global development, migration could

contribute to achieving several development goals, including ending poverty, attaining healthy lives and promoting decent work. Second, targets aimed at leveraging the benefits and reducing the costs of migration could be viewed as a means of implementing the post-2015 development agenda. Third, relevant targets could be disaggregated for migrants, refugees and other vulnerable groups.

63. Operationalizing the above themes as targets and indicators that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART) is crucial for meeting standards of monitoring and accountability. The Global Migration Group has identified several themes that have a good potential for use in monitoring progress over time, including remittance transfer costs, recruitment costs, portability of social security and other acquired rights, skills recognition, human trafficking, statelessness and durable solutions for refugees. Several Global Migration Group entities are developing a set of indicators on the human rights of migrants and their families, with a special focus on the rights to health, education and decent work. Further work is needed to develop data and indicators that rely on innovative data sources.

64. The Global Migration Group also supports country operations. The Joint Migration and Development Initiative, a partnership of six Global Migration Group members, seeks to promote the benefits of migration at the local level in developing countries. Further, the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are working in eight pilot countries to integrate migration into national development strategies. The Global Migration Group is also developing guidance on migration within the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the "Delivering as one" initiative.

G. Strengthen the migration evidence base

65. The availability of timely, reliable and accurate data is a prerequisite for evidence-based debate and for policymaking and monitoring. Many countries have weak capacities to produce basic data on migrant stocks and migration flows or to carry out policy-relevant analyses on ways and means of reaping the benefits of migration for individuals, communities and societies. A recent assessment of available migration data in 10 developing countries found that although many sources of relevant data exist in various national institutions, often those data are not recognized as a resource for national policy and planning, and are not systematically utilized, analysed or disseminated.[15] Evidence on the linkages between internal and international migration is largely missing.

66. While population censuses remain the primary source of internationally comparable information on the number and characteristics of international migrants, their use remains problematic owing to delays in the processing and dissemination of census tabulations. For the 2010 census round, which started in 2005 and will end in 2014, 130 countries and areas were known as of 1 January 2014 to have asked relevant questions on the foreign-born population. However, only 61 (47 per cent) of those countries and areas had reported data on the total foreign-born population as of that date and just 42 (32 per cent) had reported data on the foreign-born

[15] ACP Observatory on Migration, "Migration and development within the South: new evidence from African, Caribbean and Pacific countries", *International Organization for Migration Migration Research Series*, No. 46 (Geneva, International Organization for Migration, 2013).

population disaggregated by country of birth. Only a handful of developing countries have reported statistics to the United Nations Statistics Division in recent years on migration flows measured using data from administrative sources.

67. As migration, migrants and mobility are increasingly being considered within the context of the global development agenda and in national planning strategies, the demand for timely, accurate, nationally relevant and internationally comparable migration data and indicators is expected to rise. The report of the Secretary-General on international migration statistics (E/CN.3/2014/20), submitted to the Statistical Commission at its forty-fifth session, held in March 2014, emphasized that more needs to be done to encourage the tabulation and dissemination of census data on international migration, to harness the use of migration data generated by administrative sources, to enhance the capacity of developing countries in collecting and using migration data, and to enable the exchange of statistical information between countries. The report recommended that the international statistical community establish a dedicated capacity-development programme to improve the collection, processing and analysis of migration data for policy planning. In a similar vein, the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, held in Geneva in October 2013, called for further work on labour migration statistics, to be used in informing labour migration policies.

68. To strengthen the evidence base on international migration, the agencies of the Global Migration Group have invested in data-collection activities, methodological work on indicators, capacity development, knowledge-sharing, surveys and research studies. The United Nations Global Migration Database, maintained by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, continues to be updated and will be used to inform future revisions of estimates of the global migrant stock by age, sex and country of birth. In collaboration with UNICEF, the Population Division produced the 2014 edition of a common set of indicators, covering 232 countries and areas, complementing the repository of migration profiles maintained by the Global Forum on Migration and Development. Other Global Forum entities also continue to contribute to the global migration evidence base. For example, UNODC collected data for the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2014*[16] and has expanded its case law database on human trafficking, while the International Organization for Migration has started to track the number of migrant deaths in border regions and has launched a related study. *EFA Global Monitoring Report 2013/4: Achieving Equality for All*,[17] published by UNESCO in early 2014, found that migrant children in secondary schools in developed countries lag behind native-born students on reading benchmarks.

69. The Global Migration Group continues to advocate for the use of surveys in measuring the scale and impact of migration. For example, UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Organization for Migration are preparing a report on the impact of migration on families left behind and on those who have returned from abroad, using both qualitative and quantitative survey methods. Drawing on the Gallup World Poll, based on interviews with 25,000 migrants in over 150 countries, the International Organization for Migration developed a set of indicators on the well-being of migrants around the world in its

[16] Vienna, 2014.

[17] Paris, 2014.

World Migration Report 2013: Migrant Well-Being and Development.[18] In collaboration with Gallup, IOM has launched a multi-year world migration survey programme, starting with the inauguration of the International Migration Barometer in 2014.

70. In the area of capacity development, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and the International Organization for Migration organized a workshop on the collection and use of migration statistics for the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The 2014 work session of ECE on migration statistics will address the measurement of integration, return and circular migration, and the impact of migration. The Global Migration Group, with the support of the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development, is preparing a practical guide to measuring international migration and its impacts on development. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with key stakeholders, will organize up to three workshops with a view to improving the collection and use of migration data during the biennium 2014-2015.

71. In April 2014, UNFPA and the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, with the support of the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development, organized a seminar on the role of migration in population modelling. Experts presented methodologies for improving estimates of the stocks and flows of international migrants and for projecting future migration trends. The seminar found that the lack of consistent and complete migration data and the inherent challenges in forecasting migration continue to be an impediment to producing standardized approaches and reliable migration projections.

H. Enhance migration partnerships and cooperation

72. In 2014, the Global Migration Group organized several briefings and side events to improve coordination with the Global Forum on Migration and Development. At the seventh meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, held in May 2014, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development invited representatives of the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the Global Migration Group to discuss the implementation of the commitments made at the 2013 High-level Dialogue and, in particular, the integration of migration into the post-2015 development agenda. The meeting identified several other themes for future collaboration, including reducing the costs of labour migration, improving the protection of migrant domestic workers, and assisting migrants in countries facing crises.

73. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 56/203 of 21 December 2001 and 58/208 of 23 December 2003, the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs continues to convene annual coordination meetings on international migration. The twelfth coordination meeting, held in February 2014, focused on operationalizing the Secretary-General's eight-point agenda for action and on integrating international migration into the framework of the post-2015 development agenda. Since the first High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, participation in the coordination meeting has greatly expanded,

[18] Geneva, 2013.

from about 80 participants in 2006 to nearly 150 participants in 2014. Participation has also broadened in scope to include, in addition to representatives of agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, the current and the incoming Chair-in-Office of the Global Forum on Migration and Development and representatives of Member States and non-governmental organizations, including employer and worker organizations.

74. At the regional level, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the League of Arab States and the International Organization for Migration have been cooperating on a number of initiatives, including a report on international migration in the Arab region. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has continued to foster partnerships through its role in regional consultative processes on international migration, such as the South American Conference on Migration and the Regional Conference on Migration, and in regional organizations, such as the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Union of South American Nations. The Asia-Pacific Regional Thematic Working Group on International Migration including Human Trafficking, co-chaired by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the International Organization for Migration, is preparing a report with policy recommendations on leveraging the contribution of migrant workers. The International Organization for Migration has continued to support regional consultative processes on migration through research, policy advice and capacity-building activities. The Global Migration Group has been working with the African Union to ensure that labour migration is duly reflected in the preparations for a summit on employment and poverty alleviation in Africa, to be held in Ouagadougou in September 2014. ILO, with the support of the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development, is currently preparing an inventory of good practices in bilateral agreements that produce positive outcomes for workers and employers as well as for the countries of origin and destination of labour migrants.

75. The Global Migration Group sought to further its engagement with civil society, including with trade unions, during the civil society days of the seventh meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in 2014, at the twelfth coordination meeting on international migration, and in other events. Civil society has also participated in various activities carried out by working groups and task forces of the Global Migration Group. The annual UNHCR consultations with non-governmental organizations, held in June 2014, provided an opportunity to consult and coordinate with civil society on the protection of women asylum seekers and refugees within mixed migratory flows, in particular at sea. The 2014 annual consultations of the International Organization for Migration with civil society partners focused on the follow-up to the 2013 High-level Dialogue. Cognizant of the potential contribution of migrants to development, the International Organization for Migration is promoting partnerships between diaspora communities and governments in both countries of origin and destination.

I. Following up the 2013 High-level Dialogue: the role of civil society

76. Civil society will concentrate on those elements from its five-year eight-point agenda that, in its view, will make collaboration with Member States most effective. A first priority of civil society is to include migration-related targets in the sustainable development goals of the post-2015 development agenda. By focusing

on sustainable development, decent work, equitable growth and universal access to social protection, civil society hopes to address inequalities and ensure that future migration will be voluntary.

77. A second priority of civil society is to provide protection and assistance to migrants in situations of crisis and transit. Civil society underscores the need to ensure the protection of vulnerable migrants in transit, regardless of their status, especially women and children subject to trafficking, and to address violence and abuse associated with crossing borders. To alleviate the burdens imposed by these challenges, civil society calls for the expansion of channels for regular, safe and orderly migration.

78. Third, civil society supports reform of the migrant labour recruitment industry. As a means of addressing recruitment malpractices, several countries have reformed their laws, while businesses have begun to scrutinize their global supply chains. Yet, more needs to be done to promote international human rights and labour standards for migrant workers, to facilitate the portability of skills and rights acquired by migrants, to reduce the costs of transferring migrant remittances, and to allow migrants to switch their employer.

79. Last, civil society is committed to working with Member States to promote effective institutions and good governance in the context of international migration and development. In particular, civil society promotes equal access of migrants and non-migrants to social protection, justice and due process and seeks to end the criminalization and detention of migrants in an irregular situation. Civil society recognizes the contribution of the Global Forum on Migration and Development and has called upon the Global Forum to strengthen its accountability, transparency and inclusiveness.

IV. The 2013 High-level Dialogue: follow-up and next steps

80. **Member States are invited to take action to implement the Declaration adopted at the 2013 High-level Dialogue. The Secretary-General's eight-point plan of action is a helpful framework for guiding the implementation of measures designed to leverage migration for development, to address migration challenges, to facilitate mobility and to protect the human rights of migrants. The international community is encouraged to support Member States in developing and implementing relevant migration and development policies and programmes.**

81. **The General Assembly is invited to consider holding high-level dialogues on migration at regular intervals to review the status of implementation of the commitments made at the 2013 High-level Dialogue. Such events could be held every three to five years.**

82. **The General Assembly is also invited to consider integrating the subject of international migrants, migration and mobility into the post-2015 sustainable development goals process. Member States have already proposed relevant targets under various goals, including those dealing with means of implementation and global partnerships, poverty and decent work. Explicit reference should be made to migrants, refugees, stateless persons and other**

vulnerable groups when development targets that are relevant to migration are being monitored.

83. **The Economic and Social Council is invited to consider holding an annual high-level debate on international migration and development in order to allow the Secretary-General's Special Representative on International Migration and Development, the Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, the Chair of the Global Migration Group and representatives of other relevant stakeholders to discuss with Member States the opportunities and challenges presented by migration and mobility with respect to development.**

84. **The Department of Economic and Social Affairs will continue to convene annual coordination meetings on international migration and to assess, in close cooperation with the Global Migration Group, interested agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, and civil society, the progress made in implementing the Secretary-General's eight-point agenda.**

85. **The Global Forum on Migration and Development is invited to continue its efforts to promote informal dialogue and cooperation between Member States and with civil society. In so doing, the Global Forum could strengthen its development focus and ensure that regional perspectives are fully reflected.**

86. **The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development will continue to facilitate the linkages between the United Nations and the Global Forum process. He will also continue to advocate for the commitments made at the 2013 High-level Dialogue, including (a) to address the dire situation of migrants caught in crisis situations, (b) to integrate the subject of migrants, migration and mobility into the post-2015 sustainable development goals process and (c) to promote collaboration between the Global Forum process and the Global Migration Group.**

87. **The 18 members of the Global Migration Group should continue to take steps to strengthen their cooperation, enhance their engagement with Member States and civil society and engage jointly in work at the country level that is in the service of migrants and their families in societies of origin, transit and destination.**